

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/964,335

Examiner

Peter Choi

Applicant(s)

TSUKISHIMA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/11/0.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-6, 11, 13-17, 19-22, 24-25.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/30/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record is appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel Stanger (Reg #32846) on October 27, 2006.

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms, which is executed by an information processor, comprising steps of:

storing in a data storage device a general business-operation-index-group(f) group including a plurality of indexes indicating the condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures-group(x) group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by the respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, and the a first correlation-information-group(Mm) group

including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines the correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and the respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures ~~group~~, group, risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when each plan of measures is executed, and investment information indicating investment amount necessary to execute the measures included in the general plan-of-measures;

by comparing business operation index-data ~~(A)~~ data of the enterprise to be reformed and the general business-operation index group, producing a problem-index group by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group and stored in the data storage device;

accepting input of information indicating acceptable risk level;

producing the second correlation-information ~~group (Mm')~~ group by extracting correlation information which relates to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group, and which relates to a ~~plan of~~ plan of measures having a lower risk level than the inputted risk level from the first correlation-information group;

accepting input of gross investment to be invested to the management reform;

producing a potential plan-of-measures ~~group(x')~~ group by selecting one or more plans of measures which relates to the second correlation-information group and which has a lower gross investment than the inputted investment amount from the general plan-of-measures group; and

outputting the resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plans of measures plan-of-measures group;

~~— further storing risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan of measures group is executed in the data storage device;~~

~~— accepting input of information designating the acceptable risk level by the information processor; and~~

~~— producing the second correlation information group by extracting information which define correlation relating to the problem indexes and to plans of measures having a risk level equal or lower than the input risk level, from the first correlation information group.~~

Claim 2. (canceled).

Claim 3. (currently amended) The method of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms according to Claim 1, wherein a business-operation-index-profit correlation-information-group(Mp) group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise to be reformed with the general business operation indexes, is further stored in the data storage device;

a problem-index-profit correlation-information-group(Mp') group is produced by extracting information which describe correlation relating to the problem indexes from the business-operation-index-profit correlation-information group;

a final plan-of-measures group including plans of measures which maximize the profit of the enterprise is found out from the potential plan of means included in the potential plan-of-measures group, under the limiting conditions that that the each plans of measures is either adopted or not adopted; and
the resultant final plans of measures are output.

Claim 4. (previously presented) The method of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms according to Claim 3, wherein input of target profit of the enterprise is further accepted by the information processor; and

it is judged whether the profit of the enterprise obtained by the each found plans of measures is equal or larger than the input target profit, to output the plans of measures when it is equal or larger.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A method of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms, said method, being executed by an information processor, comprising the steps of:

storing a general business-operation-index group including a plurality of indexes indicating a condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, and a first correlation-information group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which

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defines a correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group, risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group is executed, gross investment information indicating an amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures, and a business-operation-index-profit correlation-information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes in a data storage device;

producing a problem-index group by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group and stored in the data storage device;

~~producing a second correlation-information group by extracting correlation information relating to problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first correlation-information group;~~

producing a potential plan-of-measures group by selecting one or more plans of measures relating to the second correlation-information group from the general plan-of-measures group;

outputting a resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plans-of-measures group;

~~storing risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan of measures group is executed in the data storage device;~~

accepting input of information designating an acceptable risk level by the information processor;

producing the second correlation-information group by extracting information which define correlation relating to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first-correlation group, and to plans of measures having a risk level equal or lower than the input risk level, also from the first correlation-information group;

~~storing gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan of measures, and a business-operation-index-profit correlation-information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business-operation indexes, in the data storage device;~~

producing a problem-index - profit correlation-information group by extracting information which describe correlation relating to the problem indexes from the business-operation-index -profit correlation-information group;

accepting input of the gross investment intended to invest in management reforms by the information processor;

adopting or not adopting a final plan-of-measures group including plans of measures which maximize the profit of the enterprise is found out from the potential

plan of means included in the potential plan-of-measures group, under the limiting conditions that the gross investment necessary to execute the each selected plan of measures is equal or lower than the input gross investment and that the each plans of measures;

resultant final plans of measures are output;

accepting input of target profit of the enterprise is accepted by the information processor;

judging whether the profit of the enterprise obtained by the each found plans of measures is equal or larger than the input target profit, to output the plans of measures when it is equal or larger;

accepting a change of the acceptable risk level by the information processor when the profit of the enterprise given by the found plans of measures is less than the target profit; and

when the acceptable risk level is changed, selecting information which define correlation relating to the problem indexes and to the plans of measures having a risk level equal or lower than the changed risk level from the first correlation-information group, to produce the second correlation-information group.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A method of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms, said method being executed by an information processor, comprising the steps of:

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storing a general business-operation-index group including a plurality of indexes indicating a condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, ~~and a first correlation-~~ information group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines a correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group, risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group, gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures, and a business-operation-index-profit correlation-information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes in a data storage device;

producing a problem-index group by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group and stored in the data storage device;

producing a second correlation-information group by extracting correlation information relating to problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first correlation-information group;

producing a potential plan-of-measures group by selecting one or more plans of measures relating to the second correlation-information group from the general plan-of-measures group;

outputting a resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plans-of-measures group;

~~storing risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan of measures group is executed in the data storage device;~~

accepting input of information designating an acceptable risk level by the information processor;

producing the second correlation-information group by extracting information which define correlation relating to the problem indexes and to plans of measures having a risk level equal or lower than the input risk level, from the first correlation-information group;

~~storing gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan of measures, and a business operation index profit correlation information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes, in the data storage device;~~

producing a problem-index - profit correlation-information group by extracting information which describe correlation relating to the problem indexes from the business-operation-index -profit correlation-information group;

accepting input of the gross investment intended to invest in management reforms by the information processor;

adopting or not adopting a final plan-of-measures group including plans of measures which maximize the profit of the enterprise is found out from the potential plan of means included in the potential plan-of-measures group, under the limiting conditions that the gross investment necessary to execute the each selected plan of measures is equal or lower than the input gross investment and that the each plans of measures;

resultant final plans of measures are output;

accepting input of target profit of the enterprise is accepted by the information processor;

judging whether the profit of the enterprise obtained by the each found plans of measures is equal or larger than the input target profit, to output the plans of measures when it is equal or larger;

accepting a change of the gross investment intended to be invested in management reforms by the information processor when the profit of the enterprise given by the found plan of measures is lower than the target profit;

adopting or not adopting a final plan of measures which maximizes the profit of the enterprise are found from the selected potential plans of measures under the limiting conditions that the gross investment intended to be invested in management reforms necessary to execute the selected plan of measures is equal or lower than the changed gross investment and that the each plan of measures; and

outputting resultant final plans of measures.

Claims 7-10. (canceled)

Claim 11. (currently amended) A system of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms executed by an information processor, wherein said information processor includes an input device, a data storage device, a central processor, and an output device;

said data storage device stores a general business-operation-index-group (f) group including a plurality of indexes indicating the condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures-group (x) group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by the respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, a first correlation-information-group (Mm) group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines the correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and the respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group, risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when each plan of measures is executed, and gross investment information indicating investment amount necessary to carry out the measures, and a problem-index group produced by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group, and by

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comparing the business operation index data of the enterprise to be reformed and the general business-operation index group; and

said central processor executes the following steps of:

accepting input of information indicating acceptable risk level;

producing a second correlation-information-group ~~(Mm')~~ group by extracting correlation information which relates to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group and which relates to a ~~plan of~~ plan of measures having a lower risk level than the inputted risk level from the first correlation-information group;

accepting input of gross investment to be invested to the management reform through the input device,

producing a potential plan-of-measures-group ~~(x')~~ group by selecting one or more plans of measures which relates to the second correlation-information group and which has a lower investment amount than the inputted gross investment amount from the general plan-of-measures group; and

outputting the resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plan-of-measures group through the input/ and output devices.

Claim 12. (canceled).

Claim 13. (currently amended) The system of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms executed by an information processor according to Claim 11, wherein:

the data storage device further stores a business-operation-index-profit correlation-information-group (M_p) group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes; and

the central processor further executes the following steps of:

producing a problem-index-profit correlation-information- (M_p') by group by extracting information which describe correlation relating to the problem indexes from the business-operation-index -profit correlation-information group;

finding a final plan-of-measures group including plans of measures which maximize the profit of the enterprise from the potential plan of means included in the potential plan-of-measures group, under the limiting conditions that the each plans of measures is either adopted or not adopted; and

outputting the resultant final plans of measures through the output device.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The system of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms executed by an information processor according to Claim 13, wherein the central processor further executes the following steps of:

further accepting input of target profit of the enterprise through the input device; and

judging whether the profit of the enterprise obtained by the each found plans of measures is equal or larger than the input target profit, to output the plans of measures through the output device when it is equal or larger.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A system of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms comprising:

an information processor which executes the plans of measures for management reforms,

wherein said information processor comprises:

an input device,

a data storage device,

a central processor, and

an output device,

wherein said data storage device stores a general business-operation-index group including a plurality of indexes indicating the condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by the respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, a first correlation-information group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines the correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and the respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group, and a problem-index group produced by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group, risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures

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group is executed, gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures, and a business-operation-index - profit correlation-information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes, and

wherein said central processor executes the following steps of:

producing a second correlation-information group by extracting correlation information relating to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first correlation-information group,

producing a potential plan-of-measures group by selecting one or more plans of measures relating to the second correlation-information group from the general plan-of-measures group, and

outputting the resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plan-of-measures group through the input/output device;

~~wherein the data storage device further stores risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group is executed; and~~

~~wherein the central processor further executes the following steps of:~~

~~accepting input of information designating the acceptable risk level, and~~

~~producing the second correlation-information group by extracting information which define correlation relating to the problem indexes and to plans of measures~~

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having a risk level equal or lower than the input risk level, from the first correlation-information group;

~~wherein the data storage device further stores gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan of measures, and a business operation index - profit correlation information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes;~~

~~wherein the central processor further executes the following steps of:~~

producing a problem-index - profit correlation-information group by extracting information which describe correlation relating to the problem indexes from the business-operation-index -profit correlation-information group,

accepting input of the gross investment intended to invest in management reforms,

finding a final plan-of-measures group including plans of measures which maximize the profit of the enterprise from the potential plan of means included in the potential plan-of-measures group, under the limiting conditions that the gross investment necessary to execute the each selected plan of measures is equal or lower than the input gross investment and that the each plans of measures is either adopted or not adopted, ~~and~~

outputting the resultant final plans of measures through the output device;

~~wherein the central processor further executes the following steps of:~~

accepting input of target profit of the enterprise through the input device; ~~i and~~

judging whether the profit of the enterprise obtained by the each found plans of measures is equal or larger than the input target profit, to output the plans of measures through the output device when it is equal or larger;

~~wherein the central processor further executes the following steps of:~~

accepting change of the risk level when the profit of the enterprise given by the found plans of measures is less than the target profit through the input device, and

when the risk level is changed, selecting information which define correlation relating to the problem indexes and to the plans of measures having a risk level equal or lower than the changed risk level from the first correlation-information group, to produce the second correlation-information group.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A system of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms comprising:

an information processor which executes the plan of measures for management reforms,

wherein said information processor comprises:

an input device,

a data storage device,

a central processor, and

an output device,

wherein said data storage device stores a general business-operation-index group including a plurality of indexes indicating the condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by the respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, a first correlation-information group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines the correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and the respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group, and a problem-index group produced by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group, risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group is executed, gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures, and a business-operation-index - profit correlation-information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes;

wherein said central processor executes the following steps of:

~~—producing a second correlation information group by extracting correlation information relating to the problem indexes included in the problem index group from the first correlation information group;~~

producing a potential plan-of-measures group by selecting one or more plans of measures relating to the second correlation-information group from the general plan-of-measures group, and

outputting the resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plan-of-measures group through the input/output device;

~~wherein the data storage device further stores risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group is executed;~~

~~wherein the central processor further executes the following steps of:~~

~~accepting input of information designating the acceptable risk level, and~~

producing the second correlation-information group by extracting information which define correlation relating to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first correlation-information group, and to plans of measures having a risk level equal or lower than the input risk level, also from the first correlation-information group;

~~wherein the data storage device further stores gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures, and a business-operation index—profit correlation-information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business-operation indexes;~~

~~wherein the central processor further executes the following steps of:~~

producing a problem-index - profit correlation-information group by extracting information which describe correlation relating to the problem indexes from the business-operation-index -profit correlation-information group,

accepting input of the gross investment intended to invest in management reforms,

finding a final plan-of-measures group including plans of measures which maximize the profit of the enterprise from the potential plan of means included in the potential plan-of-measures group, under the limiting conditions that the gross investment necessary to execute the each selected plan of measures is equal or lower than the input gross investment and that the each plans of measures is either adopted or not adopted; and;

outputting the resultant final plans of measures through the output device;

~~wherein the central processor further executes the following steps of:~~

~~accepting input of target profit of the enterprise through the input device; and ;~~

judging whether the profit of the enterprise obtained by the each found plans of measures is equal or larger than the input target profit, to output the plans of measures through the output device when it is equal or larger; and

~~wherein the central processor further executes the following steps of:~~

accepting change of the gross investment when the profit of the enterprise given by the found plan of measures is lower than the target profit through the input device,

finding a final plan of measures which maximizes the profit of the enterprise from the selected potential plans of measures under the limiting conditions that the gross investment necessary to execute the selected plan of measures is lower than the changed gross investment and that the each plan of measures is either adopted or not adopted, and

outputting the resultant final plans of measures through the output device.

Claim 17. (currently amended) A program product read in and executed by a computer having a storage device to cause said computer to perform processing of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms, wherein the program causes the computer to perform the following processing of:

storing a general business-operation-index-group ~~(f)~~ group including a plurality of indexes indicating the condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures-group ~~(x)~~ group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by the respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, ~~and the~~ a first correlation-information-group (Mm) group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines the correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and the respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group ~~in a data storage device,~~ risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when each plan of measures is

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executed, and investment information indicating gross investment amount necessary for executing the measure, in a data storage device;

by comparing business operation index ~~data (A)~~ data of the enterprise to be reformed and the general business-operation index group, producing a problem-index group by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group and stored in the data storage device;

accepting input of information specifying acceptable risk level;

producing the second correlation-information ~~group (Mm')~~ group by extracting correlation information which relates to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group and which relates to a ~~plane-of-measure~~ plan-of-measures having a lower risk level than the inputted risk level from the first correlation-information group;

accepting input of gross investment amount to be invested to the management reform;

producing a potential plan-of-measures ~~group (x')~~ group by selecting one or more plans of measures which relates to the second correlation-information group and which has a lower gross investment amount than the inputted investment amount from the general plan-of-measures group; and

outputting the resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential ~~plans-of-measures~~ plan-of-measures group.

Claim 18. (canceled).

Claim 19. (currently amended) The program product for performing processing of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms according Claim 17, wherein the program causes the computer to further perform the following processing of:

further storing a business-operation-index-profit correlation-information-group ~~(Mp)~~ group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes in the data storage device;

producing a problem-index - profit correlation-information-group ~~(Mp')~~ group by extracting information which describe correlation relating to the problem indexes from the business-operation-index -profit correlation-information group;

finding a final plan-of-measures group including plans of measures which maximize the profit of the enterprise from the potential plan of means included in the potential plan-of-measures group, under the limiting conditions that the each plans of measures is either adopted or not adopted; and

outputting the resultant final plans of measures.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The program product for performing processing of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms according Claim 19, wherein the program causes the computer to further perform the following processing of:

further accepting input of target profit of the enterprise; and
judging whether the profit of the enterprise obtained by the each found plans of measures is equal or larger than the input target profit, to output the plans of measures when it is equal or larger.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) A program of a program product read in and executed by a computer having a storage device to cause said computer to perform processing of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms, the program causes the computer to perform the following processing of:

storing a general business-operation-index group including a plurality of indexes indicating the condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by the respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, and the first correlation-information group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines the correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and the respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group, storing risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group is executed, gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures, and a business-operation-index - profit correlation-information

group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes in a data storage device;

producing a problem-index group by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group and stored in the data storage device;

~~—producing the second correlation information group by extracting correlation information relating to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first correlation information group;~~

producing a potential plan-of-measures group by selecting one or more plans of measures relating to the second correlation-information group from the general plan-of-measures group;

outputting the resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plans-of-measures group;

~~further storing risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan of measures group is executed in the data storage device;~~

accepting input of information designating the acceptable risk level;

producing the second correlation-information group by extracting information which define correlation relating to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first correlation-information group, and to plans of measures

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having a risk level equal or lower than the input risk level, also from the first correlation-information group;

~~further storing gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan of measures, and a business operation index - profit correlation information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes in the data storage device;~~

producing a problem-index - profit correlation-information group by extracting information which describe correlation relating to the problem indexes from the business-operation-index -profit correlation-information group;

accepting input of the gross investment intended to invest in management reforms;

finding a final plan-of-measures group including plans of measures which maximize the profit of the enterprise from the potential plan of means included in the potential plan-of-measures group, under the limiting conditions that the gross investment necessary to execute the each selected plan of measures is equal or lower than the input gross investment and that the each plans of measures is either adopted or not adopted;

outputting the resultant final plans of measures;

accepting input of target profit of the enterprise; ~~and~~

judging whether the profit of the enterprise obtained by the each found plans of measures is equal or larger than the input target profit, to output the plans of measures when it is equal or larger;

accepting change of the risk level when the profit of the enterprise given by the found plans of measures is less than the target profit; and

when the risk level is changed, selecting information which define correlation relating to the problem indexes and to the plans of measures having a risk level equal or lower than the changed risk level from the first correlation-information group, to produce the second correlation-information group.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A program of a program product read in and executed by a computer having a storage device to cause said computer to perform processing of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms, the program causes the computer to perform the following processing of:

storing a general business-operation-index group including a plurality of indexes indicating the condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by the respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, and the first correlation-information group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines the correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and the respective plans of measures included in

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the general plan-of-measures group, risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group is executed, gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures, and a business-operation-index - profit correlation-information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes in a data storage device;

producing a problem-index group by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group and stored in the data storage device;

~~—— producing the second correlation information group by extracting correlation information relating to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first correlation information group;~~

producing a potential plan-of-measures group by selecting one or more plans of measures relating to the second correlation-information group from the general plan-of-measures group;

outputting the resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plans-of-measures group;

~~further storing risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when the each plan of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group is executed in the data storage device;~~

accepting input of information designating the acceptable risk level;

producing the second correlation-information group by extracting information which define correlation relating to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first correlation-information group, and to plans of measures having a risk level equal or lower than the input risk level, also from the first correlation-information group;

~~further storing gross investment information indicating the amount of investment necessary to execute the each plan of measures included in the general plan of measures, and a business-operation-index - profit correlation information group including correlation information which correlate the profit of the enterprise with the general business operation indexes in the data storage device;~~

producing a problem-index - profit correlation-information group by extracting information which describe correlation relating to the problem indexes from the business-operation-index -profit correlation-information group;

accepting input of the gross investment intended to invest in management reforms;

finding a final plan-of-measures group including plans of measures which maximize the profit of the enterprise from the potential plan of means included in the potential plan-of-measures group, under the limiting conditions that the gross investment necessary to execute the each selected plan of measures is equal or lower than the input gross investment and that the each plans of measures is either adopted or not adopted;

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outputting the resultant final plans of measures;

accepting input of target profit of the enterprise;

judging whether the profit of the enterprise obtained by the each found plans of measures is equal or larger than the input target profit, to output the plans of measures when it is equal or larger;

accepting change of the gross investment when the profit of the enterprise given by the found plan of measures is equal or lower than the target profit;

finding a final plan of measures which maximizes the profit of the enterprise from the selected potential plans of measures under the limiting conditions that the gross investment necessary to execute the selected plan of measures is lower than the changed gross investment and that the each plan of measures is either adopted or not adopted; and

outputting the resultant final plans of measures.

Claim 23. (canceled).

Claim 24. (Currently amended) A method of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms, said method, being executed by an information processor, comprising the steps of:

storing a general business-operation-index group including a plurality of indexes indicating the condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is

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information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by the respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, a first correlation-information group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines the correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and the respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group and reference data, to which the condition of business operation of said enterprise is compared, in a data storage device;

accepting input of information indicating the current condition of business operation of the enterprise by the information processor;

producing a problem-index group by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group, on the basis of the result obtained by comparing the information indicating the current condition of business operation of the enterprise with the reference data for comparison and stored in the data storage device;

producing a second correlation-information group by extracting correlation information relating to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first correlation-information group;

producing a potential plan-of-measures group by selecting one or more plans of measures relating to the second correlation-information group from the general plan-of-measures group;

outputting the resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plans-of-measures group; and

~~producing downloading, for comparison, said reference data for comparison, which that corresponds to the category of business to which the enterprise belongs, and the problem-index group are downloaded from a server accumulating said reference data for comparison via a network, and the problem-index group by using the downloaded reference data for comparison.~~

Claim 25. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms ~~said method, being executed~~ by an information processor, comprising the steps of:

storing a general business-operation-index group including a plurality of indexes indicating the condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by the respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, a first correlation-information group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines the correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and the respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group and reference data, to which the condition of business operation of said enterprise is compared, in a data storage device;

accepting input of information indicating the current condition of business operation of the enterprise by the information processor;

producing a problem-index group by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group, on the basis of the result obtained by comparing the information indicating the current condition of business operation of the enterprise with the reference data for comparison and stored in the data storage device;

producing a second correlation-information group by extracting correlation information relating to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group from the first correlation-information group;

producing a potential plan-of-measures group by selecting one or more plans of measures relating to the second correlation-information group from the general plan-of-measures group;

outputting the resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plans-of-measures group;

downloading, for comparison, from a server network, said reference data ~~for comparison, which that corresponds~~ to the category of business to which the enterprise belongs, ~~are downloaded from a sever network accumulating reference data for comparison via a network and a program of assisting in forming plans of measures from a server accumulating the same,~~

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executing the said downloaded program, ~~executes by the use of the reference data for comparison using said reference data~~ to perform the following processing of:

accepting input of information indicating the current condition of business operation of the enterprise_i;

producing the problem-index group_i;

producing the second correlation-information group_i;

selecting the potential plan-of-measures_i; and

outputting the potential plans of measures.

Claim 26. (canceled).

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, teach the claimed invention as set forth in claims 1, 3-6, 11, 13-17, 19-22, and 24-25.

Specifically, the invention set forth in independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 24 and 25 is directed towards assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms.

The presently claimed invention teaches a system and method of assisting in forming plans of measures for management reforms executed by an information processor, wherein:

said information processor includes an input device, a data storage device, a central processor, and an output device; said data storage device stores a general business-operation-index group including a plurality of indexes indicating the condition of business operation of an enterprise, a general plan-of-measures group including a plurality of plans of measures, each of which is information showing how to deal with the condition indicated by the respective indexes included in said general business-operation-index group, a first correlation-information group including a plurality of correlation information, each of which defines the correlation between the respective indexes included in the general business-operation-index group and the respective plans of measures included in the general plan-of-measures group, risk level information indicating levels of risk caused when each plan of measures is executed, gross investment information indicating investment amount necessary to carry out the measures, and a problem-index group produced by extracting, as problem indexes indicating problems in the business operations to be improved, one or more business operation indexes from the general operation-index group, and by comparing the business operation index data of the enterprise to be reformed and the general business-operation index group; and

said central processor executes the following steps of: accepting input of information indicating acceptable risk level; producing a second correlation-

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information group by extracting correlation information which relates to the problem indexes included in the problem-index group and which relates to a plan of measures having a lower risk level than the inputted risk level from the first correlation-information group; accepting input of gross investment to be invested to the management reform through the input device, producing a potential plan-of-measures group by selecting one or more plans of measures which relates to the second correlation-information group and which has a lower investment amount than the inputted gross investment amount from the general plan-of-measures group; and outputting the resultant one or more potential plans of measures included in the potential plan-of-measures group through the input and output devices, as recited in independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 24 and 25.

The novelty of the invention lies in the combination of the limitations cited in independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 24 and 25, and not in any specific individual claim limitation.

The cited prior art reference on record most closely resembling the applicant's claimed invention is Bermon (US Patent #5,946,212). Bermon teaches a method of forming plans (combinations of different tool groups), while relying upon information showing how to deal with the condition of business operation of an enterprise (determine what are the gating tools among sets of parallel, unrelated tools in a complex manufacturing environment in which different tools can perform the same or

similar sets of operations, generally at different rates). Bermon also considers the risk levels associated with each plan (determine what tool groups constitute gating or bottleneck tool groups that limit the production of the line) and seeks to maximize profit to rank a plurality of plans.

Bermon lacks, inter alia, correlation information defining the correlation between indexes included in general business-operation-index and plans of measures, a comparison of business operation and problem-index groups, comparing business operation data to extract problems in the business operations of an enterprise to be improved and/or reformed, producing a potential plan-of-measures group of a plurality of measures relating to the problem and selecting a plan-of-measure having lower risk levels and gross investment amount than an initially specified amount.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272-6971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PC

October 27, 2006

Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
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